

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8, 15-18, 43-59, 75-78 and 98-109 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 9, 11, 13, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 29-31, 38-42, 60, 72, 79, 80, 87-92, 94, 95 and 97 have been amended, and claims 110-170 have been added.

Consequently, claims 9-14, 19-42, 60-74, 79-97, and 110-170 are currently pending and under consideration.

In items 2(A) and 3(A) of the Office Action, the drawings and specification were objected to due to the omission of reference signs 408, 1734, 2302 and 2718 in the specification. The specification has been amended above to correct the cited informalities. Since the cited informalities have been corrected in the specification, it is submitted that amendments to the drawings are not required. In item 3(B), a number of informalities in the specification were cited. In the present Response, the specification has been amended to obviate the cited objections. In addition, the specification has been amended to correct some minor typographical errors. It is submitted that no new matter has been added by the above-mentioned amendments.

In items 3(C) and 5, claims 14 and 71 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In particular, it was indicated that "the specific range of a 1% price difference lacks antecedent basis within the specification as required by 37 CFR § 1.75(d1)." In traversal, the Applicants wish to bring to the

Examiner's attention the passage at page 58, lines 7-8, of the originally filed application, which describes that "[i]n one form, the small price difference is less than or equal to a one-percent (1%) change the price." Since the specification as originally filed clearly supports claim 14 and 71, it respectfully requested that the above-mentioned rejections be withdrawn.

The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating in item 10 that claims 9-14, 19, 20, 41, 60-71, 87, 88 and 97 contained allowable subject matter. In the present Response, claims 9, 11, 13, 19, 20, 41, 60, 88 and 97 have been rewritten into independent form and the remaining pending claims depend, either directly or indirectly, from these claims. It is therefore submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance.

It should be understood that the above remarks are not intended to provide an exhaustive basis for patentability or concede the basis for the rejections in the Office Action, but are simply provided to overcome the rejections made in the outstanding Office Action in the most expedient fashion.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance and an early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited. If after reviewing this amendment the Examiner feels that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to

issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicants' [applicant's] undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully Submitted,

By 

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